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Saucers Are Still Around

This week's issue of *The World*, a new newsmagazine published in Washington, brings up to date a story that has been little in the news of late. What ever became of flying saucers? Interestingly, they are still around.

"Between January and August of this year, the Air Technical Intelligence Center in Dayton received reports of 276 initially-unidentified 'flying objects' over sovereign American airspace."

About two-thirds of these were promptly accounted for in terms of balloons, aircraft, or optical illusions. Another 50 per cent (it seems a large proportion) were marked off the books on the grounds of "insufficient information." Three per cent (ten of the sightings) remain officially "unidentified."

What were these ten mysterious objects? The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, a sober and responsible group composed of scientists, professors, a former CIA director, and others, is convinced that these and other "saucers" are quite real. A majority of the group's board believes "that the unknown devices reported by reliable observers are intelligently controlled machines from outer space."

A House sub-committee is to hold hearings next Spring on the whole subject. If the crackpots, religious nuts and publicity seekers can be kept away, this should be a useful venture. The committee probably won't get the right answers, but it may raise the right questions.